



Step Two: Essential Content Areas

Leaders: Students should learn that the civil rights movement was composed of many individuals and was not the initiative of any single person or small group of people.

Groups: Students should be able to identify major groups involved in the civil rights movement. They should explain the mission and accomplishments of each group, as well as trace the relationships among groups.

Events: Students should be able to identify key events in the civil rights movement and place them in correct chronology. They should identify the causes and consequences of these events, linking key figures and organizations to each event.

Historical context: Students should be able to trace the roots of the civil rights movement to slavery and the Jim Crow era.

Opposition: Students should be able to identify opposition to the goals of the civil rights movement. They should examine the persistence of racism and be able to identify key figures and groups opposing the extension of civil rights.

Tactics: Students should be able to explain the advantages and disadvantages of tactics used at different times during the struggle for civil rights. They should identify and compare tactics and ideas such as boycotts, sit-ins, marches, going to jail, voter registration and Black Power.

Connections: Students should be able to make connections between the civil rights movement and other social movements in history, as well as to current events and social concerns. Students should be encouraged to apply the lessons of the civil rights movement when forming their own ideas about effective citizenship.